



SEPTEMBER 2008

# GRANT COUNTY FSA NEWS

## 2008 LOSSES

### Grant County FSA

2145 Basin ST SW STE A  
Ephrata WA 98823  
Phone: 509-754-2463 Ext 2  
Fax: 509-754-4705

### Office Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

### County Committee

Richard Reffett, Chair  
Mike Edwards, V-Chair  
John Morris Jr., Member  
Angela Piston, Advisor

### Farm Program Staff

Greg Anderson, CED  
Marilyn Littleton, PT  
Katie Markham, PT  
Roxanne Neilan, PT

### Farm Loan Staff

Everett Purrington, FLM  
Nancy Seger, FLO  
Libby Anderson, FLO  
Barbara Williams, FLT

### FSA Websites:

<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa>  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>  
<http://usda.gov>

Toll Free Farm Loan Info:  
1-888-518-4983

### PHONE EXTENSION #'S

GREG	1101
KATIE	1104
BARB	1107
ROXANNE	1103
MARILYN	1100
EVERETT	1102
LIBBY	1105
NANCY	1106



Did you suffer a loss to any of your 2008 crops, pasture, trees or livestock? The 2008 Farm Bill provides for 5 new disaster assistance programs:

- Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payment Program (SURE)
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP)
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP)
- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

In order to be eligible for any of these programs, producers must have obtained a plan of coverage for each insurable and non-insurable commodity on the farm (including pasture). FSA will allow agricultural producers who had 2008 crop losses (who would otherwise be ineligible for the new disaster assistance program) to become eligible by paying a fee. A waiver is available to allow producers to "buy-in" and be eligible for the new disaster assistance for their 2008 losses. Every producer whose crops, including all grazing lands, are not fully covered by crop insurance or Non-Insurance Assistance Program (NAP) coverage may take advantage of this one-time opportunity. The buy-in fee is \$100 per crop, with not more than \$300 per producer per county, or \$900 total per producer for all counties. All farming interests in all counties must be covered. **An application and the buy-in fee are due no later than September 16, 2008.** A waiver of the fee may be available if you meet the requirements of a socially disadvantaged, limited resource or beginning farmer or rancher. Please contact our office immediately if you have crops that did not have coverage for 2008, or if you have any questions.

## 2009 CROP INSURANCE OR NON-INSURED ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COVERAGE

While a "buy in" waiver is allowed for 2008, producers **must** purchase crop coverage in the 2009 and future crop years in order to qualify for disaster assistance. Beginning with the 2009 crop year, to maintain eligibility for the Supplemental Disaster Programs, producers must obtain Federal Crop Insurance (FCIC) of at least catastrophic (CAT) level coverage. For those crops that are non-insurable, coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) must also be timely obtained from FSA, **the fee of \$250 per crop, or \$750 per producer per county but not to exceed a total of \$1875 per producer.**

Therefore, producers with fall planted commodities need to be making important crop insurance decisions for the upcoming crop year. Producers are encouraged to contact their local FSA office and visit with a crop insurance agent (a list of agents is available at all USDA Service Centers) to fully understand what crop insurance programs are available in the county and to ensure they are obtaining adequate coverage for eligibility. **The next round of sales closing dates for FCIC is September 30 for all fall planted crops** like wheat, forage production, fall barley and canola. The final date to purchase NAP for 2009 crops (those not covered by crop insurance including pasture) is December 1, 2008.

Keep your DIRECT DEPOSIT FORM updated when changes occur.

## 2005-2007 CROP DISASTER PROGRAM

Sign-up continues for disaster assistance through the Crop Disaster program (CDP). If you suffered crop losses in any year 2005 – 2007, you may be eligible for benefits. Quantity and quality losses are eligible. In order to apply producers must have had federal crop insurance or non-insured assistance program coverage on their crop, for the applicable year. No ending date has been announced. Please contact our office to make an appointment to sign up or if you have any questions.

## 2008 DCP SIGN-UP CONTINUES

Producers have until **September 30, 2008** to apply for the 2008 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP). Contracts need to be signed and returned immediately, by the deadline date. If you have any questions about enrollment, please contact our office.

## COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

County Committee elections are underway. Ballots will be mailed out in November to all eligible voters. The County Committee is a unique system under which Federal farm programs are to be administered locally. Producers who are eligible to participate in these programs elect a three-to five-person county committee, which reviews county office operations and makes some of the decisions on how to apply the programs. This grassroots approach gives you a much-needed say in how Federal actions affect your operations. After more than 70 years, it remains a cornerstone of FSA's efforts to preserve and promote American agriculture. This year, the election includes the following:

LAA No. 3 Moses Lake and Warden Area - Richard Reffett

## NEW TERMINOLOGY FOR FARM PROGRAMS

The 2008 Farm Bill grants exceptions to certain program rules for beginning, socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers/ranchers. This statutory terminology is not new to FSA's loan programs but it is new for most other programs. Definitions may differ slightly depending on the program.

A beginning farmer/rancher is an individual or an entity who has operated a farm for 10 years or less and who participates substantially in the farm/ranch operation. For loan purposes of purchasing a farm, the farm must be no more than 30 percent of the median size farm in the county. All members of an entity must meet the definition for the entity to be considered beginning farmers or ranchers. This definition applies to the purchase of a 2008 risk management waiver for disaster assistance programs.

A socially disadvantaged farmer/rancher is a member of a demographic group whose members have historically been subjected to racial, ethnic, or for some programs, gender prejudice. Groups include: American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asians, Blacks or African Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics/Latinos. For DCP, ACRE and farm loans, women meet the socially disadvantaged definition. Socially disadvantaged, without the gender consideration, is applicable for the purchase of a 2008 risk management waiver for disaster assistance programs.

A limited resource farmer/rancher is an individual who, in the previous two years, has had gross farm sales of not more than \$100,000 (base year 2004) adjusted for inflation. Additionally, the farmer/rancher must have a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four or less than 50% of county median household income. A tool that adjusts for inflation and county can be found at <http://www.Irftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp> or ask for assistance at our office. The limited resource definition applies to DCP, ACRE, ECP, NAP, farm loans and the purchase of a 2008 risk management waiver for disaster assistance programs.